

Appl. N U.S. Patent Application No. 09/889,628
Docket No. CM1993M
Amdt. Dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 21, 2003

~~a) a polymeric disintegrant having a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.3mm and at least 30 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.2mm; and~~

~~b) a water soluble hydrated salt having a solubility in distilled water of at least about 25g/100g at 25°C.~~

A detergent tablet for use in a washing machine, the tablet having two or more phases at least one of which comprises one or more of the following:

a) a polymeric disintegrant having a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.3mm and at least 30 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.2mm; or

b) a water-soluble hydrated salt having a solubility in distilled water of at least about 25g/100g at 25°C.

wherein said detergent tablet comprises:

i) a first phase in the form of a shaped body having at least one mould therein; and

ii) a second phase is in the form of a compressed particulate solid adhesively attached within said mould.

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2-15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the polymeric disintegrant has a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.25mm and at least 50 % by weight thereof has a particle size below about 0.2mm.

17. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the polymeric disintegrant has a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size above about 0.05mm.

18. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 17 wherein the polymeric disintegrant has a particle size distribution such that at least 90 % by weight thereof has a particle size above about 0.075mm.

19. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the polymeric disintegrant is selected from starch, cellulose and derivatives thereof, alginates, sugars, polyvinylpyrrolidones and mixtures thereof.

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20. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt is selected from hydrates of sodium acetate, sodium metaborate, sodium orthophosphate, sodium dihydrogenphosphate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium potassium tartrate, potassium aluminium sulphate, calcium bromide, calcium nitrate, sodium citrate, potassium citrate and mixtures thereof.
21. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt is selected from water-soluble mono-, di- tri- and tetrahydrate salts and mixtures thereof.
22. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt has a melting point in the range from about 30°C to about 95°C.
23. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 22 wherein the water-soluble hydrated salt has a melting point in the range from about 30°C to about 75°C.
24. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 containing from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight each of the polymeric disintegrant and water-soluble hydrated salt.
25. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 having a child bite strength (CBS) of at least about 6 kg.
26. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 25 having a child bite strength (CBS) of greater than about 14 kg.
27. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 1 wherein the particulate solid is compressed at a pressure of at least about 40 kg/cm².
28. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 27 wherein the particulate solid is compressed at a pressure of at least about 250 kg/cm².
29. (previously presented) A detergent tablet according to claim 28 wherein the particulate solid is compressed at a pressure of at least about 350 kg/cm².
30. (canceled)

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31. (currently amended) A detergent tablet according to claim ~~30~~ 1 wherein the second phase is compressed at a pressure of less than about 350 kg/cm².

32. (currently amended) A detergent tablet according to claim ~~30~~ 1 wherein the first phase is compressed at a pressure of at least about 350 kg/cm².